State of Montana
Office of Commissioner of Higher Education

2012 Agency Biennial IT Report
Fiscal Year 2011-2012

August 2012

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan summarizes the biennial report. An increase in network bandwidth for the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education has been completed. The acquisition of scholarship software has been delayed and the scope of the acquisition will be reduced.   Upgrade of SharePoint Server 2007 to SharePoint Server 2010 has also been delayed.

Initiative Status	Total	Fully Funded	Unfunded	Partially Funded
Completed	1		1	
Substantially Completed				
Deferred				
Delayed	2		2	
Cancelled				
Remain on-going by design				

Goal Number 1: Improve Network Efficiency

IT Goal 1   Increase network bandwidth for OCHE

Description: Improve efficiencies and reduce travel costs by increasing bandwidth

Benefits: What benefits are realized and who realizes the benefits? Reduced costs, improved employee and program efficiencies, as well as customer satisfaction with related information and availability of services.

Which state strategic goal(s) and/or objective(s) does your goal address? Continue to encourage and promote the use of innovative technologies for delivering government services.

Supporting Objective/Action

Objective 1-1   Improve Data Warehouse Access

Accomplishments: Access response times to the data warehouse servers is much quicker and takes less time, resulting in more efficient ability to obtain Montana University System data, run reports, and provide remote server maintenance.

Status: Completed

Supporting Objective/Action

Objective 1-2   Use Desktop Video Conferencing

Accomplishments: The increased bandwidth allows us to now utilize video conferencing for interviews of out-of-state applicants, to conduct on-line meetings and webinars, and allows OCHE staff to view live streaming feed of Board of Regents meetings which results in less staff required at meetings and lower travel costs.

Status: Completed

Supporting Objective/Action

Objective 1-3   SharePoint

Accomplishments: The increased bandwidth allows for better efficiencies in information sharing and increased ability to manage statewide projects, programs, and staff.

Status: Completed

Goal Number 2: Scholarship Processing & Tracking Software

IT Goal 2

Description: Improved and dedicated programming to aid in the processing of scholarship applications, disbursing, tracking, and reporting for the various state grant and scholarship programs, including the Quality Educator Forgiveness Program.

Benefits: What benefits are realized and who realizes the benefits?   Benefits are that costs could be better contained providing the ongoing ability to administer these programs efficiently and effectively.

Which state strategic goal(s) and/or objective(s) does your goal address?

Supporting Objective/Action

Objective 2-1   Acquire Scholarship Processing and Tracking Software

Accomplishments: An RFP process was initiated and evaluation of responses did not result in a contract being awarded due to higher-than-anticipated costs and potential inefficiencies.   This initiative has been delayed and the scope of the project may be refined to be on a much smaller scale. A limited solicitation may be considered for FY 2013.

Status: Delayed

Goal Number 3: Upgrade SharePoint

(Goal was added as "Transfer Initiative" in IT Plan change document submitted July 2011)

IT Goal 3

Description: Upgrade Microsoft SharePoint Server 2007 to Microsoft SharePoint 2010 for use in facilitating collaborative efforts of university system faculty to achieve improved transferability of courses.

Benefits: What benefits are realized and who realizes the benefits?   Students are able to transfer between institutions much easier, with more credits being accepted resulting in increased graduation rates.

Which state strategic goal(s) and/or objective(s) does your goal address? Improve service to students.

Supporting Objective/Action

Objective 3-1

Accomplishments: An online "Course Equivalency Guide" has been developed to allow website visitors to quickly view courses available in the Montana University System and see their availability across all campuses.   The need to use the Microsoft SharePoint Server for the transferability initiative has been reduced, although the server is still in use for coordination of common-course numbering.   SharePoint continues to be used and expanded for other projects and programs. A decision to upgrade the server software to SharePoint Server 2010 has been delayed, although server hardware was upgraded to accommodate an increase in data storage needs.

Status: Delayed

SECTION 2: IT INITIATIVES STATUS UPDATES

None

SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - OPTIONAL

Other types of information that your agency may wish to report as accomplishments or challenges related to achieving the Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives outlined in your 2010 IT plan and 2011 IT plan update.